

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, May 27, 2004

Chair Stamsta called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Joe Griffin, Sandy Wolff, Hank Carlson, Bill Kramer, and Andy Kallin. **Absent:** Jim Jeskewitz.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Veterans' Services Director John Margowski, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary, Commission on Aging Chair Miriam Behselich, Programs & Projects Analyst Barbara Woyak, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Epidemiologist Darren Rausch, and Public Health Manager Nancy Healy-Haney.

Approve Minutes of May 13, 2004

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Kramer to approve the minutes of May 13. Kramer asked that an amendment be made to the minutes. Motion carried 6-0 as amended.

Read Correspondence

Esler distributed copies of a letter dated May 26 from Administration Director Norm Cummings to WCTC Foundation Chair Brian Henke regarding their building lease/agreement with the County. He advised of a typo in the last paragraph and he said there might be an update on this at the next committee meeting.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

June 10th

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Kramer to approve mileage for Griffin's attendance to tonight's Waukesha County Economic Development Corporation's Annual Meeting in Delafield. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Committee Report

Stamsta said the Executive Committee, at their last meeting, heard two tax intercept appeals. Neither was granted. And UW-Extension Director Marcia Jante presented her application requests for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Educational Overview of the Veterans' Services Department

Margowski said the Department's main goal is to advocate and provide services to veterans and their dependants. They assist with the application for federal, state, and county veterans programs. In some cases, a veteran's benefit is not the solution. Sometimes social security or disability income may be more appropriate. There is also a Veterans' Service Commission whose purpose is to review applications from eligible veterans and their dependents and to provide financial assistance the commission deems appropriate.

The Department's staff consists of himself, a Veterans Services Aide (0.7 FTE [full-time equivalent]), and two Clerk Typist II's. In 2003, his office handled about 8,200 incoming phone calls and 3,581 clients visited the office. The office made 206 referrals to other federal, state and county agencies for additional services. Margowski said he made a total of 171 appearances on behalf of veterans in 2003. In 2003, county veterans, their dependents, and their survivors received over \$80.7 million in federal benefits and over \$6.2 million in state benefits. To answer Kallin's question, Margowski said his budget last year was about \$247,000 and includes a \$13,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans and \$234,000 in County tax levy.

Review and Accept the 2003 Annual Report of the Senior Services Department

Woyak and Bellovary reviewed their 2003 annual report in detail. Woyak noted they served over 13,000 clients last year. They do a lot of collaboration with other agencies and organizations for various services. Departmental revenue sources include an array of grants, donations, and tax levy (\$1,382,162) for a total 2003 budget of \$3,172,520. The primary goal of the department is to allow seniors to live in their homes as long as possible.

The Information and Assistance Area assesses needs, provides information about programs and services, determines eligibility, does case management, etc. The total number of phone calls received in 2003 was 51,103 – a 3.4% increase from 2002. The number of unduplicated registered clients with an active case encounter in 2003 was 3,970.

The Caregiver Support Services Area provides information to caregivers about available services including respite care, counseling, support groups, training, etc. Caregivers received a total of 1,111 hours of counseling in 2003. There is also a Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Group which is very well received by those involved and also by the State. The total estimated unduplicated number of caregivers served in 2003 was 2,275.

The Benefit Specialist Services Area assists older adults with problems concerning social security, Supplemental Social Security, Medicare and other benefit programs. The Benefit Specialist also addresses consumer problems such as property taxes, landlord/tenant concerns, private health insurance, and frauds and scams. In 2003, 253 older adults received these benefits – an increase of 25 or 11% from 2002.

The Community Services Area assists older adults with daily living activities to complement the support they receive from family, friends and other caregivers. The services are intended to allow older adults to remain living in their own home and avoid or delay moving them to nursing homes. Services include light housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, bathing, minor home repairs, respite care, and health cost sharing. In 2003, 555 clients were served – an increase of 5.3% from 2002.

Adult Day Center Services include supervision, personal care, medication, exercise, therapies, and peer socialization for older adults in a group setting. With 2,164 days of service, subsidized adult day services decreased in 2003 by 193 days of service (or 8.2%) from 2,357 days in 2002. The number of participants increased by 2 (or 5.1%) from 39 in 2002 to 41 in 2003.

Elder Abuse and Neglect Services is the lead agency in the County for the Elder Abuse and Neglect Report System while the County's Health & Human Services Department is responsible for conducting the investigations. Types of abuse include physical abuse, materials abuse,

neglect by others, and self-neglect. The number of reported cases of elder abuse increased by 4 (or 9.8%) from 2002. The total number of reported cases continues to be less than 1% of the 60+ population in Waukesha County.

Senior Dining includes both Senior Dining Centers and Home Delivered Meals. The program provides low cost nutritious meals to older adults who may be frail, isolated, homebound, or disadvantaged. There are 13 dining centers throughout the County and in addition to a hot noon meal, nutrition education, health information and screening, and outreach and support are provided. Home Delivered Meals provides a hot noon meal that is delivered to frail and homebound older adults who are unable to prepare their own meals. The number of persons registered for the dining centers increased 237 (or 16.5%) from 2002 although the average number of meals served in the dining centers decreased from 42.7 meals in 2002 to 39.1 in 2003. In 2003, 87,717 Home Delivered Meals were served in comparison to 85,017 meals in 2002 – an increase of 3.2%. The number of persons registered for Home Delivered Meals increased by 11 (or 1.5%) with 738 people registered during 2003.

Specialized Transportation Program Services include RideLine (door-to-door service for older adults and individuals with disabilities countywide), the Shared-Fare Taxi Program (subsidized taxi services throughout the county), the Menomonee Falls Senior Shuttle (door-to-door bus transportation) and the Sussex Senior Shuttle (curb-to-curb service). RideLine and the Shared-Fare Taxi Program provided 95.7% of the specialized transportation service for Waukesha County residents. Of the 74,461 one-way specialized transportation trips provided in 2003, RideLine and Shared-Fare Taxi provided 73,150 one-way trips.

The Volunteer Services Program involves recruitment, training, placement, and retention of volunteers who are vital to the provision of services needed by older adults in the County. During 2003, 1,370 people volunteered their time and talents in the programs coordinated by the Department including senior dining, benefit specialist services, etc. These volunteers provided 38,935 hours of service which equates to a minimal dollar value of \$266,230. The number of volunteer hours decreased by 503 hours (or 1.3%) from 2002.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Wolff to accept the 2003 Annual Report of the Senior Services Department. Motion carried 6-0.

Discuss Letter from Wisconsin Association of Aging Regarding the Reorganization of Long Term Support Administration

Bellovary said she didn't have much of an update on this issue as there really wasn't much information given at the last regional meeting. She said any details given were very vague – even this letter was vague. She finds it offensive that the reorganization includes placing the Aging Department in the Bureau of Inclusion. She also questioned the creation of yet another bureau. Bellovary said they will continue to work with State Department of Health & Family Services Secretary Helene Nelson about the importance of aging and how they work with Long Term Care Support. Bellovary said they haven't been able to determine what exactly Nelson is planning.

Esler distributed copies of a memo he received from Sinikka Santala and Judith Frye (State employees) on the proposed reorganization. He felt the information contained in the memo was

confusing, at best, which he discussed briefly. Bellovary asked for a copy since she hadn't received one.

Educational Overview of the Public Health Division of the Department of Health & Human Services

Healy-Haney gave an overview of the Public Health Division as outlined in her handout. Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health and efficiency through organized community efforts for: the sanitation of the environment, control of communicable infections, the education of the individual in personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing services for the early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease, and promotion of a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health to enable citizens to realize health and longevity. Division sections include Administration, Assurance, Risk Control, and Communicable Disease Control.

There are a total of 39.60 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions in the Public Health Division including 18 nurses and 1 epidemiologist. The 2004 budget for the division is \$3,016,774. The bulk of the funds are in the Assurance Section.

Rausch went on to review public health preparedness, which really expanded after 9/11, and the Milwaukee/Waukesha Consortium. The purpose of the consortium is to develop county, state and regional public health plans to respond to biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological terrorism, and natural disasters such as tornados and floods. Wisconsin has 12 regional consortiums statewide. Partners include hospitals, police, fire, HazMat, non-profit agencies such as the Red Cross, volunteers, laboratories, health professionals, Emergency Government, the Regional Trauma Advisory Council, etc. Esler asked what did the \$480,000 buy us last year? Schuler replied the creation of the communications team, communications equipment (including radios), training sessions, a full-time coordinator and clerical worker, Tyvek suits, and other safety gear. Personnel / labor costs are paid from existing salaries and are not paid from consortium funding for any of the government participants.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Carlson to adjourn at 4:14 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin
Secretary